DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 319 414 IR 053 166

AUTHOR	Preston, Nancy R., Comp.
TITLE	Library and Information Services for Democracy. A Select ERIC Bibliography Prepared on a Theme of the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services. ERIC/IR Mini-Bib.
INSTITUTION	ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, Syracuse, N.Y.
SPONS AGENCY	Office of Educational Research and Improvement (ED), Washington, DC.
PUB DATE	Mar 90
CONTRACT	RI88062008
NOTE	4p.
AVAILABLE FROM	ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources, 030 Huntington Hall, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244-2340 (free while supply lasts; please include stamped, self-addressed envelope).
PUB TYPE	Information Analyses - ERIC Information Analysis Products (071) -- Reference Materials - Bibliographies (131)
EDRS PRICE	MF01/PC01 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS	*Access to Information; Annotated Bibliographies; *Democracy; *Freedom of Information; Information Needs; *Information Services; *Library Role; *Library Services
IDENTIFIERS	*Information Policy; Information Society; White House Conference Library Info Services

ABSTRACT

Documents and journal articles featured in this nine-item annotated bibliography concern information as a critical resource in a democratic society and the role of the library and information services in ensuring access to information, especially that which is government produced. Citations were selected through a computer search of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) database. (GL)

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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR DEMOCRACY

A Select ERIC Bibliography Prepared on a theme of the 1991 White House Conference on Library and Information Services

March 1990

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ERIC/IR Mini-Bib

IR053764

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LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES FOR DEMOCRACY

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Citations in this bibliography were selected through a computer search of the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC) database. Documents and journal articles featured here concern information as a critical resource in a democratic society and the role of library and information services in ensuring access to information, especially that which is government produced.

Allen, Kenneth B. (Spring 1989). A National Strategy for the Information Age. *Information Management Review* 4(4), pp. 17-27. (Available UMI: EJ 393 950).

Discusses the value of information in American democracy, the evolution and current status of federal information policy, and the need for a national strategy to facilitate evolution toward an information society. Specific information policy goals and principles are identified, and suggestions for implementing policy formation are presented.

Bortnick, Jane (Ed.). (1988). Symposium on the Electronic Collection and Dissemination of Federal Government Information. *Government Information Quarterly* 5(3), pp. 197-211, 213-21, 223-302.

Explores the public policy issues raised by the electronic collection and dissemination of Federal government information from the perspectives of Congress, the Executive Branch, the private sector, and the user community. Lists of selected references and texts of relevant Office of Management and Budget source documents are provided. An Update on NTIS privatization is included.

Durrance, Joan C. (1988). Providing Access to Local Government Information: The Nature of Public Library Activity. *Government Information Quarterly* 5(2), pp. 155-167.

Describes a survey of public libraries that examined problems associated with access to local government information. Findings are reported on the nature of requests received, the types of responses given and sources used, and reasons given by librarians for providing access to local government information.

Gapen, D. Kaye, and others. (October 1987). *Technology & U.S. Government Information Policies: Catalysts for New Partnerships. Report of the Task Force on Government Information in Electronic Format.* Washington, DC: Association of Research Libraries. 37pp. (Available EDRS: ED 288 555).

Designed to encourage discussion of technology and U.S. government information policies and a clearer understanding of how the characteristics of electronic formats affect the availability of information, this report focuses on the implications for the library, education, and research communities that have heretofore assumed some responsibility for providing government information to the general public.

Office of Technology Assessment. (October 1988). *Informing the Nation: Federal Information Dissemination in an Electronic Age. Summary.* (Report No. OTA-CIT-397). Washington, DC: Author. 32pp. (Available EDRS: ED 301 229; for the complete report, see ED 301 228).

Summarizes a study which addressed the opportunities offered by technological advances to improve the dissemination of federal information essential to public understanding of many issues facing Congress and the nation. Two major problems are highlighted: maintaining equity in public access to federal information in electronic formats, and defining the respective roles of federal agencies and the private sector in the electronic dissemination process.

Price, Douglas. (February 1987). *Federal Information Policies: Views of a Concerned Community.* A Summary of Proceedings of the 4th Federal Library and Information Center Committee (FLICC) Annual Forum on Federal Information Policies, Washington, DC, February 25, 1987. 30pp. (Available EDRS: ED 287 489).

Summarizes a forum designed to give those in the academic, public, and private sectors an opportunity to articulate concerns regarding a trend in government information policy towards cutting back on the availability of federal data and publications and limiting such information to formats that are difficult to use. Two panel sessions are highlighted: Information Policies and Public Needs, and Information Policies and National Interests.

Rosnak, Theodore. (February 1986). Partners for Democracy: Public Libraries and Information Technology. *Wilson Library Bulletin* 60(6), pp. 14-17. (Available UMI: EJ 330 155).

This essay addresses access to information through the use of computer networking systems. Highlights include national commercial networks, bulletin board systems, cautionary notes on networking, the role of the public library in providing a link between the computer and the public, and maximizing access and efficiency through library services.

Varner, Carroll. (May, 1988). *Controversies, Collections, and the Academic Library's Educational Role.* Paper presented at the Association of College and Research Libraries (ACRL) Session of the Annual Meeting of the Illinois Library Association, Chicago, IL, May 12, 1988. 7pp. (Available EDRS: ED 307 876).

This examination of the issue of intellectual freedom in academic libraries provides examples of recent controversies and argues that the library's response to such controversies provides an opportunity to emphasize its educational role. Recommends balance as the guiding principle in library collection development and suggests that representing both sides of controversial issues in a collection is a powerful rationale for the library's educational role on campus.

White, Charles S. (November 1987). *Information Technology and Representative Government: Educating an Informed and Participative Citizenry.* Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the National Council for the Social Studies, Dallas, TX, November 15, 1987. 19pp. (Available EDRS: 293 741).

Examines the relationship between the principle of representative government and information in light of dramatic changes in information technology. Potential negative effects are discussed, including the fear that the high costs of arranging and supporting "teledemocracy" systems may be so substantial that those who bear the costs will want to establish the agendas.

Compiled by Nancy R. Preston March 1990

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